

THE GATEWAY

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WORKING FROM THE TOP DOWN The Centre for Subatomic Research Building was demolished in July to make room for the construction of the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science. The new centre is slated to open in 2010.

EPS investigating missing ASA funds

COSANNA PRESTON
News Staff

Despite increased efforts this year towards transparency and accountability, the Arts Students' Association has reported \$4000 missing after grad banquet ticket sales and T-shirt money disappeared from the association's office.

The money, garnered from the 9 June, 2006 Arts students' graduation banquet, was discovered missing mid-June by then-president Ariana Barer, who promptly reported the missing funds to then-vice-president (administration) Blythe Morrow. Upon hearing the news, Morrow immediately contacted Michelle Kelly then-vice-president (external), who had taken the money from the banquet to the Arts Students' Association (ASA) office following the event. While Kelly contradicted Barer and assured Morrow the money was in the office, she did admit she had placed it on a table and not in the office safe.

"This is where the contention is coming from... She said she was in a rush and she didn't have time to throw it in the safe. The safe was wide open," Morrow said. "I cleaned the entire office and the money wasn't there."

Morrow further explained that it was standard practise to leave the safe open when empty so sporadic deposits such as Kelly's could be made.

The loss is a particular blow to the ASA as, according to Morrow, this year's executive spent countless hours working on organizational structure and accountability, especially with regards to finances.

"We had done such a good job and then at the last possible second every-

thing that we had worked towards kind of crumbled at our feet. Now when people look back at this year they are going to think about missing money... That's the big ramifications. It's not the \$4000," she said.

While neither Kelly nor anyone else has been charged in the incident, according to ASA President Tim Schneider the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) are still investigating the missing funds. Schneider was unwilling to comment further due to the ongoing nature of the case.

"We had done such a good job and then, at the last possible second, everything that we worked towards kind of crumbled at our feet. Now, when people look back at this year, they are going to think about missing money... That's the big ramifications."

BLYTHE MORROW,
FORMER ASA VP (ADMINISTRATION)

In the absence of an official explanation, Morrow and others have searched for other possibilities. Morrow remarked that the University's custodial staff also have access to the ASA office.

PLEASE SEE ASA • PAGE 2

U of A students closer to U-Pass after meeting with City

SCOTT LILWALL
Deputy News Editor

Supporters of an affordable and universal public transportation pass for university students may soon see the end of a long battle, as the City of Edmonton's Transportation Department looks over the costs associated with implementing a U-Pass pilot project, which would provide Edmonton Transit Service (ETS) passes to all University of Alberta undergraduate students.

In a meeting on 10 July, the City's Transportation and Public Works Committee outlined the information it required from the SU before a September meeting to decide how much money the City would provide to the project.

The report requested by the Committee will also include the cost to make the program available to graduate students at the U of A, as well as the cost of extending the U-Pass program over the spring and summer semesters. One of the biggest items, however, is a confirmation from the University Administration that it will also contribute to the U-Pass.

"We're hoping that with a contribution from the University, we can get [the U-Pass] down around \$70-\$75."

SAMANTHA POWER,
SU PRESIDENT

"At the moment, [the U-Pass] would be a cost of about \$90 per student," Students' Union President Samantha Power said. "We're hoping that with a contribution from the University, we can get it down around \$70-\$75."

The cost of the U-Pass has been one of the major barriers to getting the project off the ground. A referendum passed in March 2004 locked the price of any U-Pass at \$60 per student for per semester; however, the SU was unable to broker a deal with the City that would allow U-Passes to be offered at that cost, so the initiative stalled until the referendum expired this past spring. While a new policy passed by Students' Council requires the U-Pass be affordable to students, it doesn't set out any specific price cap.

PLEASE SEE U-PASS • PAGE 2



PROPOSED U-PASS to provide affordable ETS access to student commuters.

MATT FREIER

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Osama at the movies

Find out what crazy hijinks go down at the premiere of Everyday Osama's big-screen debut, *World Trade Centre*

COMICS, PAGE 12



Fringe me, baby

U of A students are getting the chance to get their thespian hands on some good, wholesome Fringe action

A&E, PAGE 7

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Students' Union Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 2J7Telephone 780.492.5168
Fax 780.492.6666
Ad Inquiries 780.492.6700
E-mail gateway@gatewayjournal.ca

editorial staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Matt Frehner
eic@gatewayjournal.ca | 492.5168MANAGING EDITOR
Chloe Fedro
managing@gatewayjournal.ca | 492.6664SENIOR NEWS EDITOR
Natalie Cimenhaga
news@gatewayjournal.ca | 492.7308DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR
Scott Livall
deputynews@gatewayjournal.ca | 492.6664OPINION EDITOR
Adam Gaurmont
opinion@gatewayjournal.ca | 492.6661ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
Amanda Ash
entertainment@gatewayjournal.ca | 492.7572SPORTS EDITOR
Paul Overt
sports@gatewayjournal.ca | 492.6662PHOTO EDITOR
Krystina Szulcyci
photo@gatewayjournal.ca | 492.6648DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR
Mike Kendrick
production@gatewayjournal.ca | 492.6663

business staff

BUSINESS MANAGER
Steve Smith
biz@gatewayjournal.ca | 492.6669AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Patrick Czolek
sales@gatewayjournal.ca | 492.6700AD GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Lisa Lunn
design@gatewayjournal.ca | 492.6647CIRCULATION PALS
Scott C Bourgeois
Ben Carter
circulation@gatewayjournal.ca | 492.6669

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, Union Powerlook 1000 flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images. Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of Baskerville, Garamond, and Arno. The Gateway is the Gateway's sister papers and we love her dearly though 'not in that way.' The Gateway's games of choice are Photo Booth and Zombies.

contributors

Cosima Preston, Ross "To Heart You" Prusakowski, Nina Varsova, Tim Phipps, Chris O'Hara, Andrew Benfante, Matthew Barnett, Patrick Ross, Michael Zahorodny, Burke, Hie, Tim, Matt Lul

No charges so far in ASA's missing funds case

ASA • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However, past-vice-president (academic) Chris Henderson dismissed this assertion.

"I'd be very surprised if someone from the facility staff took it. They come across valuable stuff everyday that they could potentially take," Henderson said, explaining that the routes and shifts of the staff are specific enough to track any items reported missing.

Don Hamaluk, Facility Services Manager at the U of A confirmed that the shifts of the staff are specifically set. As such, persons staffed for any particular night would be known and could be called upon by Campus Security if an issue were to arise.

Henderson also stressed that his personal dismissal of facilities staff wasn't meant as an indication of Kelly's malicious involvement in the incident.

"Police talked to her, and she might have been the last person to see the money go missing, but obviously the police didn't see that there was anything too dastardly in her dealings

with the money otherwise they would have filed a warrant or arrested her or questioned her a number of times. This might just be a case where the money is just gone," he said.

Morrow is hoping that this isn't the case, though, and is still waiting for a call from the EPS. In the meantime she's working with the incoming-vice-president (administration) to ensure such a mistake doesn't happen again.

"The Arts Students' Association is going to have to work so hard next year to assure students that the money that we're making and the job that we're doing is best representing them. If things like this continue to happen, then the ASA will just remain another door in Humanities that nobody knows about. I think that financial responsibility is going to be a big one this year."

Kelly is presently in California, her home state, and could not be reached for comment by the Gateway. Additionally, the EPS officer investigating the case wasn't available for an interview as of press time.



WHERE'S THE MONEY? Former VP (administration) Blythe Morrow.

CHLOE FEDRO

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Ross Prusakowski

I WANT TO RIDE MY, EERRRR... YOUR BICYCLE

On 28 July, Campus Security received a report that a bicycle had been stolen earlier that day. When the complainant observed a male pushing her bike across the street, she confronted the male and told him that the bike belonged to her and the bike was they're recovered.

The recently swindled male told her that he had just bought it from some guy for \$20, but if it belonged to her then she could take it back.

The suspect in this bicycle low-triangle is described as 18-20 years of age, Caucasian of medium build with short dark hair and possibly a beard.

DITCHIN' EXPENSIVE PROPERTY DOESN'T COUNT AS PLAYING IT COOL

While on patrol on 28 July, Campus Security members observed a suspicious male near Hub Mall. Upon noticing the 5-0 members, the male immediately abandoned the expensive bike he was

riding, leaving it unlocked on a bike rack. The shifty guy should have kept his wheels, though, as Campus Security chased him down. After questioning the male, it was determined that he had previously been banned from campus and he was arrested for trespassing. It was subsequently discovered that the subject was in possession of several tools that were voluntarily turned over to 5-0.

FLOWERING CRIMINAL CAREER

On 19 July, Campus Security received a report from the U of A Devonian Botanical Gardens. The complainant stated that one of the gardens had been broken into overnight and a golf cart was taken for a joyride. There was no other damage reported and 5-0 is still investigating the incident.

PLAYOFF SEASON ALREADY?

At 4am on 5 August, Campus 5-0 noticed a car on a road near Corbett Hall. After the Edmonton Fire Department arrived and made like the Anaheim Mighty Ducks and extinguished the flames, it was determined that some pyrotechnic prankster had spread diesel fuel over half a block and it is on fire. Given that it's a little late for post-season rivalry, the Edmonton Police Service was notified of the suspected arson.

ETS optimistic about future of U-Pass agreement at U of A

U-PASS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to Powers, the elimination of the price-point removes a burden from those negotiating the creation of the project, while still holding true to the original spirit of the referendum. "The new policy reiterates the main demands of the referendum. There were some changes. The price point has been removed, but the policy states that it must remain affordable."

"We're rather optimistic at this point," Power added.

While the administration hasn't confirmed that they will provide money towards the project, Lorna Stewart, Director of Community Relations with ETS, says that the U of A has been very supportive of the program so far.

"We haven't got a response as of yet, we have been working with them for the past number of years of the matter on the U-Pass ... and [they've] indicated that the U-Pass is a very good strategy to encourage people to use transit more," she said.

The University Administration could

not be reached for comment by the Gateway on this issue.

"[U of A admin have] indicated that the U-Pass is a very good strategy to encourage people to use transit more."

LORNA STEWART, ETS DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS

If the Administration does finalize a financial contribution to the project by the Committee's 19 September meeting, a three-year pilot project will be set out in the Department's 2007 budget proposal. More information on the proposed pilot project can be found on the City of Edmonton's website, or by contacting the Transportation Department.

STREETERS

Earlier this week, Reuters pulled over 900 photos from its online database when it was discovered that photographer Adnan Hajj had submitted two doctored photos of a bombing of Beirut.

Where do you draw the line between touching-up a photo and distorting reality?

Omar Gomez
Arnamak
EmployeeNancy Walter
Biological
Sciences IMaggie
McMagpie
Theoretical
Particle Physics VJay Johnston
Alumnus

It is very dramatic what is happening there [in Lebanon]. To make it worse? To me pictures have to be a way ... an expression of what is really happening ... We want to show the world what is going on. I think it's not fair to show something that's not really there. You try to fool people.

I think everything you change is too much. You have the picture, and that's what it is. You change a picture a little bit, and that's not reality. You have to print a picture how it is, and that's it. Because everything else just changes reality.

Refused to comment.

Honestly, I think if it's just for enhancement purposes, adding smoke, that kind of thing, I don't see much of a problem with it. For example, what he did. Yeah, I mean I guess I'd have to see: if I saw it with my own eyes it might be different—if it didn't really affect the integrity of the whole thing, I know there's definitely a line there though.

Compiled and photographed by Nina Varsova and Tim Phippin

Mandatory retirement under fire in BC

University faculty members are lobbying to change current retirement laws

TIM LANDSAV
The Martlet

Victoria (CUP)—With baby boomers starting to retire, university professors in British Columbia are calling for more flexibility in the timing and terms of their retirement.

A campaign currently being led by the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of British Columbia (CUFA/BC) is calling for change to the BC Human Rights Code to discontinue forced retirement at age 65.

"65 has become a rather arbitrary limit when what [professors and other faculty] are doing is using their minds," said CUFA-BC Executive Director Robert Clift. "They don't feel that they automatically lose their minds at the age of 65."

Protection against age discrimination under the BC Human Rights Code is currently limited to people aged 19 to 64, and mandatory retirement rules also give employers the ability to change the pay of a worker when they reach 65.

"If you're paying someone a certain salary on one day, he or she turns 65 and you're paying them half the salary the next day for the same work ... it just doesn't sit right," Clift said.

He also noted that university faculty

associations have a particular interest in changing the Human Rights Code, due to difficulties negotiating alternative retirement arrangements with individual university administrations.

"If you're paying someone a certain salary on one day, he or she turns 65 and you're paying them half the salary the next day for the same work ... it just doesn't sit right,"

ROBERT CLIFT,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
CUFA/BC

"Rather than negotiating in an atmosphere where the University still wants to have tight control over who stays after age 65 ... we figured it was time to deal with this where it belongs, which is [to change] the law which makes this possible," he said.

However, according to *Times U!* Mandatory Retirement in Canada, a report by the Canadian Association

of University Teachers, some unions argue that mandatory retirement creates employment opportunities for younger workers and that if people work further into old age, it would give governments and employers leverage to reduce pension payments. They also claim that eliminating mandatory retirement could lead to increased monitoring and evaluation of older professors.

The report also noted that jobs subject to mandatory retirement tend to be characterized by higher wages, more job security, collective agreements, and pension and retirement plans.

But, according to Clift, the large number of retiring baby boomers will open up plenty of employment opportunities for younger workers and he thinks that it's possible to have both flexible retirement options and a strong pension system. He also pointed out that the existing retirement system often doesn't meet the needs and lifestyle expectations of some.

"There's a whole lot of people out there who don't have access to a pension plan," he said. "Essentially we're opening them up to exploitation because all of their rights as workers can be abridged because of their age, given the way the legislation is currently written."



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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: NICK WIEBE

WAIT FOR THE FLOPPY The U of A's poker-playing program knows when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em.

NEWS BRIEFS

Compiled by Natalie Climenhaga
and Scott Liwall

U OF A FACULTY MEMBERS NAMED TO THE ORDER OF CANADA

A pair of the University of Alberta's own were named to the Order of Canada last month. The award, announced by Governor General Michaëlle Jean, is the nation's highest civilian honour, and is given out in recognition for a lifetime of service.

Dr. Margaret-Anne Amour is one of six Edmontonians to receive the award this year. Associate Dean of Science (Diversity) Amour is being recognized for her work in founding Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology (WISEST). Established in 1982, WISEST is designed to increase the number of women pursuing careers in hard science and engineering.

Along with Amour, Dr. Zahere Lakhani, a cardiologist and instructor at the U of A, was also named to the Order for his work in creating a partnership between Edmonton health resources and those in his native country of Uganda, including a program that sends Canadian pediatricians to that country.

In total, 77 Canadians received the Order of Canada this year for contributions in areas ranging from industry to volunteer service.

U OF A 'BOT' WINS INTERNATIONAL POKER TOURNAMENT BY A LANDSLIDE

A Computing Science team from the University of Alberta has won the world championship for poker-playing computer programs. The program bluff, bet and beat out other artificial intelligence programs at the American Association of Artificial Intelligence, held earlier this week in Boston.

"We have been the leaders in this field for more than ten years. We have tried to organize friendly competitions in the past, because so much can be learned from them. Unfortunately, we were

never able to find anyone to accept our challenge," Darce Billings, lead designer for the U of A team, explained.

The poker tournament pitted the U of A's program against five similar programs designed by teams from around the world in a game of one-on-one Texas Hold'em.

The "poker bot" made an impressive showing, coming out victorious in all of its matches and ending the tournament with the most virtual winnings by a large margin.

Billings further said that poker is a good way to test the complexity of a computer's AI. The game not only requires a program to understand and evaluate odds and make informed guesses, but also forces the 'bot' to deal with misinformation from their opponents.

"Good programs have to come up with effective ways of handling uncertainty, such as deliberate misinformation. That's a truly fundamental issue in computing science, and good solutions could find their way into any number of other applications," Billings said.

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Haji's faux-tography a tough pillar for Reuters to swallow

THE WORLD OF JOURNALISM revolves around one thing: the truth. The public relies on journalists' sense of integrity for relaying information to them accurately. After all, it would be nice to believe that everything one reads under the banner of a reputable newspaper is factually correct.

On Tuesday, 8 August, the *Globe and Mail* reported that Adnan Haji, a Beirut-based freelance photographer, was dismissed after it was found that he intentionally manipulated digital photographs he submitted to Reuters News Agency for publication.

One was altered—rather amateurishly—to give the impression that more smoke was rising from the aftermath of an air strike than there was in actuality. The other showed an additional two flames falling from an aircraft where there was originally only one.

This kind of manipulation has happened before: on 31 March, 2003, Brian Walski, a photographer for the *Los Angeles Times* covering the war in Iraq, was fired after being found to have combined two images, the end result of which was splashed on the front page.

In this case, the manipulated image consisted of two photographs, taken moments apart, of a soldier in front of a group of refugees. The soldier in the foreground from one was combined with the crowd of refugees from the other, making it appear as though he was warning them of an oncoming air strike.

Walski explained that he was simply attempting to improve the photo's "composition," but his editors obviously took it more seriously—and rightfully so.

On a related note, the previous issue of the *Gateway* (20 July) featured a cover photograph of a crowd gathered in SUB to take in the FIFA World Cup action. This image was actually made up of two photographs, shot from opposite sides of the room and merged together to give a panoramic feel to the event. As some of you may have noticed, there are even a few people who make two appearances in the final image.

While the point where the two photos merge is detectable, it's not readily apparent. The effect is artistic and visually appealing, but this raises certain ethical questions: how much our integrity should be willing to sacrifice for the sake of aesthetics? And what effect, if any, does subject matter have?

Digital manipulations of photos can have profound effects on the public's perception. It doesn't take much to awake the cynic in readers, and even less so when they know they've been deceived before.

Technology gives us the power to make extraordinary things visually possible. A bad photo can be made better by changing the sharpness or cropping, and a good photo can be made great using the same techniques. However, photojournalism remains one discipline that must remain true to its roots.

The issue of image manipulation is one of utmost importance to anyone who reads or watches the news. We're bombarded with images everyday, and the ability to distinguish the truth from fiction is vital. The world depends on journalists to uphold their integrity and accurately recount the day's events. Sometimes it's a "money shot," but other times it's the simple truth that the world needs to see.

KRYSTINA SULAIYCKI
Photo Editor

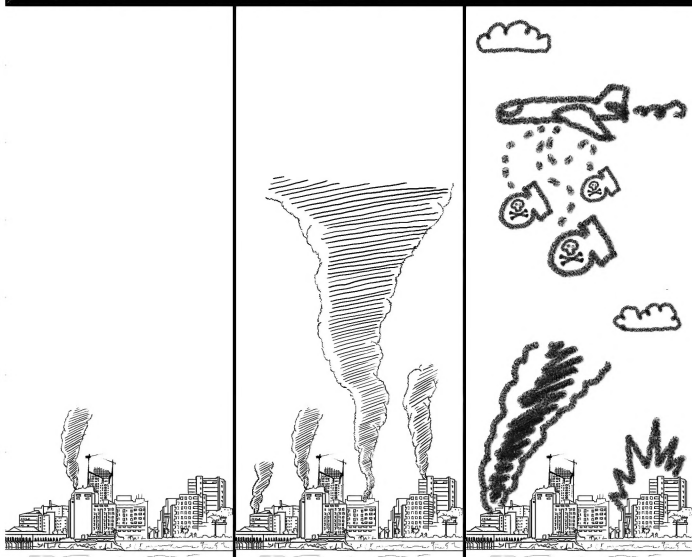
Conflict in the Middle East is so 1099, people

THIS WEEK, Israel announced that it will begin targeting any moving vehicles within the region of southern Lebanon, declaring it a "no-drive" zone. It's the latest in a series of developments in the Israel-Hizbollah conflict, now pushing on its first month of rocket-propelled shenanigans.

I'm sure at some point this conflict was rooted in ideology, but this point, the Middle-East misadventure can only be described as *Powder Keg 2: Electric Blue*. I'm not going to argue who's right or wrong here. All I know is that the schoolyard brawl between these two self-righteous nations is really getting out of hand.

MIKE KENDRICK
Design & Production Editor

BEIRUT THROUGH THE EYES OF...



ISRAEL

LEBANON

ADNAN HAJJ

MATTHEW HARRITT

LETTERS

CHUM only has itself
to blame for losses

In response to Matt Frehner's editorial entitled "Bell Globemedia sets its sights on global domination" (20 July), I would like to point out an obvious error in his editorial that could have, and should have, been easily researched.

He suggests that due to the \$17 billion deal between Bell Globemedia and CHUM is "resulting in the loss of 281 jobs and the subsequent closure of a number of news desks across the country."

This is in fact untrue. Quoting Broadcast Dialogue, CHUM press releases and industry insiders, the resulting loss of jobs was due to a very tough loss in the last quarter for CHUM (of which the results were released on the same day as the takeover announcement), as well as sagging ratings in local newscasts with exception to the CityTV station in Toronto.

In Edmonton for example, the CTV affiliate pulls in an average 125,000 viewers for its evening newscast, whereas CityTV Edmonton attracts only 4,000 viewers. That low of a number on a regular basis is not enough to keep a full newsroom financially operational.

Another fact is that the job losses were announced before the deal was blessed by both companies. Therefore this was strictly a decision made by the CHUM Board of Directors and lead management team.

With or without the purchase of CHUM by Bell Globemedia or interested companies, these cuts would have happened anyways. Maybe not as grand as 281 jobs, but the cuts would have been deep and would have hurt local content in the same manner.

BRAD MCLEAN
Whereabouts unknown

Looks like the penny is
safe—for now

While Adam Gaumont proposes an interesting theory on the imminent elimination of the penny (re: "Harper's real hidden agenda: eliminating the noble penny" 20 July), I feel I should remind him that in the exotic World Outside Alberta there is something called "Provincial Sales Tax." This should ensure more totals ending in non-multiples of five and save the cent from oblivion.

J D CROOKSHANKS
Graduate Studies

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to letters@gatewayualberta.ca.

The *Gateway* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Suspending German
Club not the answer

We wish to call attention to the text and implication of a short news item that appeared in the 2 October issue of the *Gateway*. Probably most readers overlooked it, for it was near the bottom of the third page and consisted of only two sentences. Those who did read it, however, must have done so thoughtlessly, else there had surely been some murmur of protest raised before this.

The item stated, in effect, that the activities of the campus German club were to be suspended indefinitely for reasons which should be "perfectly obvious" to all students at the University.

Perhaps we are duller than most students, but we cannot see that the reasons are at all obvious, and the more we consider the matter, the more senseless it becomes. In fact, if there were any reasons at all, they would certainly apply also to the German language courses being taught at the University, and the courses would have to be suspended also. Then, to be consistent, we would have to effect a "blood purge" in the library and make a bonfire of all the [classic] German works.

By the time we had finished that, we should probably have persuaded ourselves that English is the only pure language and that

German is only a degenerate and perverted imitation of it, and no doubt we would also be urging our politicians and militarists to impose our protection upon the Canadian minority in the United States.

If there were any possibility that singing a few German love-songs, reading a German poem or staging a German play, and drinking Tuckshop coffee, would make Nazis of us, then there would be some point in stopping the club. The only effect these things can have, however, is to give us some insight into the ordinary German mind and a more sympathetic understanding of the German people as distinct from Hitler and Hitlerism, the German people as described by Harris Turner in his open letter to Hitler in the *Gateway* of 2 October, and as mentioned by Dr Owen in his paper to the Philosophical Society last Wednesday evening.

It is true that our country is at war with Germany, and that most people in time of war are carried away by an insane hatred for those people who happen to be their enemies. If a sane, intelligent attitude is to be preserved anywhere, it should be most evident in the University. No doubt there will be narrow-minded criticism from a few jingoists, but we must not mind that if we are to give the public an example of what we know to be right.

We are at war with Hitlerism; are we, then, to let our actions be governed by notions which are the essence of Hitlerism?

R H BLACKBURN
20 October, 1939

Today's schools serving up an unhealthy health-food plan



NINA
VARSAWA

In a desperate effort to reduce youth obesity, many Canadian parents, along with health and education officials, want to take choice away from students altogether.

These concerned adults seem to think that they can control what students are consuming by carefully regulating the food and drinks that are sold in schools. In other words, they seem to think that freedom of choice is the root cause of obesity, and that limiting the choices of Canada's youth today will make for a healthier society tomorrow.

In response to this pressure, Refreshments Canada, our country's primary non-alcoholic beverage distributor, announced new guidelines for its sales in schools. On 3 May, the company stated that "under the new guidelines, only per cent juices, bottled water, and no-fat, low-fat, regular and flavoured milk will be sold in elementary schools. High schools will also sell calorie-free and low-calorie beverages as well as juice drinks and sports drinks with no more than 100 calories per container."

There have recently been similar developments involving beverage companies and grade schools in both the US and the UK.

Perhaps in elementary schools and even junior high schools, restricting the types of food and drinks available to students would be a wise decision. But surely students in high school are old enough to understand that eating junk food is bad for you.

Some high-school students are old enough to buy alcohol and cigarettes—and vote. If educators and politicians are prepared to entrust 18-year-olds with choices concerning the political body, surely they should also permit and even encourage these teens to make choices concerning their own bodies.

Rather than focusing their energies on developing strict policies that limit what kinds of food and drink are available in high schools, Canada's educational powers-that-be should focus more on educating youth to make independent and well-informed choices for themselves—nutritionally and otherwise.

Although this push to reduce choice is distressing, it's comforting to know that it simply isn't going to work. Educators are fooling themselves if they think that by simply eliminating junk food in schools they can prevent students from consuming it. The kids might be safe within the hyper-regulated school environment, but the devil's democracy, where pop, chips and candy are freely sold, eagerly awaits them on the other side of the institutional door.

Parents, educators and health officials, no matter what amount of control they attempt to give our students, will never be able actually to prevent Canadian youth from making their own choices when it comes to nutrition.

Teenagers want their pop and chips; if they see that these things are no longer options in their school's vending machines, then they'll simply make the two-minute trek over to the local convenience store to get what they want. And even if there's no convenience store in the school's immediate vicinity right now, once junk food can no longer be purchased in school, it won't take long for a Mac's or 7-Eleven to pop-up.

Of course, high schools could prevent students from leaving school grounds at all, making it impossible for them to purchase junk food for about seven hours a day, five days a week. Schools could even ban junk food entirely, so that students couldn't bring it onto school property. But this raises the question: what exactly constitutes junk food, and how would school officials ensure that this rule was being obeyed? Random lunch-box checks? Sniffer dogs? X-ray machines?

Perhaps not, but clearly the restrictions, in order to actually be effective, would have to be extreme. And even then, students could bing after school and on weekends, negating any good that the school limitations might have done.

Taking junk food out of high school cafeterias and vending machines isn't going to solve or even significantly lessen the problem of youth obesity. What's more, even if the solution were this easy, it wouldn't be a just one. High-school students deserve to be educated about nutrition, and then permitted and encouraged to make their own choices based on that knowledge.

Educators should work towards giving high-



ILLUSTRATION: MATTHEW BARRETT
GREEN LEAF OR ROMAINE? The choice is yours.

school students the knowledge and confidence they need in order to make independent and often difficult decisions. This way, our school system can prepare Canada's youth to live autonomously—obese or not—in the real, adult world.



The Gateway is looking for two part-time employees. Each position is paid \$400/month, and will begin with the 31 August paper.

In a nutshell:

- The **Online Coordinator*** will be responsible for keeping the Gateway's new website slick, sexy and not libellous.
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* Complete job descriptions (subject to change) are available at www.gatewayualberta.ca/gsjis/

New!

U of A Electronic Communications Policy

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See the full policy: www.registrar.ualberta.ca/ecommunications

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Canadian politicians could increase 'Net gains



PATRICK
ROSS

In the United States in 2002, something remarkable happened: Howard Dean, a presidential candidate for the Democratic party, came from long-shot odds (he was ranked eighth out of ten in an ABC poll) to being within a hair's breadth of securing the spot.

When Joe Trippi, one of the Democratic party's most experienced campaigners, took over Dean's campaign, it was understated, underfunded, and had few known supporters. Trippi was a tired old political work-horse on his very last political legs, but he had an idea—embrace the power of the Net.

Making full use of weblogs, message boards and a site known as Meet-Up, which enables people with similar interests to form groups and arrange meetings, Dean was able to create a groundswell of support for his previously unheard-of candidate, ballooning his number of pledged supporters from the hundreds to the hundreds of thousands.

With this sudden momentum, the Dean campaign managed to speak Democratic and Republican front-runners alike. In the last days of the campaign, however, Dean's political train derailed for various reasons, including criticism of a particularly emphatic speech he made towards the end of his campaign.

In Canada, there's still a great deal that our politicians can learn from

Dean and Trippi, the most important being that the Internet is a powerful tool, and that Canadian politicians have yet to harness it to its full extent.

Viewing the various parties' websites, it's obvious that most MPs have a long way to go. Each site offers the standard fare: contact information, bios, wallpapers, even podcasts. What they lack is what made the Dean campaign tick: interactivity. Specifically, the online message board is a critical tool that our politicians in general seem to be ignoring entirely.

This may seem a distant political pipe dream, but in reality this kind of interaction is already part of the world that we live in.

Imagine being concerned about an important issue; now imagine being able to go to your computer and log onto a message board (either for a particular political party, or perhaps for your individual riding) where you can submit a post and discuss it with others. Perhaps your own MP may respond to it and discuss the issue with you personally.

This may seem a distant political pipe dream, but in reality this kind of interaction is already part of the world that we live in—one of blogs, forums, discussion groups and instant messaging.

Creating and maintaining these types of message boards would do wonders for Canadian politics. First, it would allow constituents to debate

issues in an officially sanctioned way that they never could before. Secondly, it would drastically shorten the distance between our elected politicians—who are often away in Ottawa—and their many constituents.

Canadians would benefit immensely from the ability to discuss issues with their elected representatives. Politicians would benefit too, as they would have unprecedented new opportunities to engage with the electorate on a one-on-one basis.

This idea is far from perfect; for one thing, the standard pitfalls of all Internet forums would apply. Trolls and flammers would make things more troublesome for serious users; what's more, some of these forums could become so partisan that any kind of real debate would be impossible.

But as Howard Dean's example shows us, the single greatest benefit any politician could derive from using these resources could very well come at election time. Properly harnessing grassroots support could make the difference between eking out a narrow victory or being crushed in a landslide.

Unfortunately, such resources seem to be a long way from being commonplace among Canadian politicians. For every Garth Turner (Con—Haltom, ON), whose website offers features such as a weblog and MPtv, there's someone like St John's East MP Norman Doyle, who, despite having been a federally elected politician since 1997, doesn't even have a website—yet. Doyle's is only now under construction.

In general, most Canadian politicians are missing the boat. If they don't get on it soon, they may find themselves technologically (and votes) to their more technologically savvy competitors.

Pick up a book—and a lab coat



MICHAEL
ZAHORODNY-
BURKE

We've all heard it, maybe even occasionally from ourselves: "I'm just not good at math, but I love Shakespeare." "Give me circuits, because I've never been able to read good." "I can play the sport, I just have a hard time sitting in front of the book."

Many of these statements are made with a playful derisiveness, boasting our strengths while modestly offering salute to our shortcomings. However, whether our natural brilliance and inclination lies within the arts, sports or sciences, aren't we failing to live up to something greater by only choosing one? Are we not allowing ourselves to be smart-stupid?

Smart-stupid isn't the passionate and committed pursuit of a particular field. If it weren't for such motivations, we wouldn't have Olympic athletes, doctors, teachers or brilliant engineers. Rather, smart-stupid is the talented individual who avoids things that they aren't good at out of insecurity.

Before World War II and the conquering of the university by the middle class, smart-stupid students were likely less common. A classical education was pushed on every student, whether they wanted to enter a technical profession or not. You learned history and languages along with mathematics and science. Most students also participated in some sort of athletics as well as other enriching extracurricular activities.

The post-World War II democratization of higher education, in which new universities were opened and an education became far easier to finance, brought with it a great deal of good. Women began to find their rightful place within higher education, as did cultural and ethnic minorities. Elitist and often mindless adherence to a particular mode and canon within the arts was rightfully challenged. Much of the scientific world blossomed with opportunity as the age of information technology took its first tentative breaths.

But along with these advancements came an intense need—a very middle class need—to justify ourselves. After all, unlike the rich, the middle class couldn't afford the life of luxury. Rather, they needed a purpose; they needed to be able to put food on the table. At that point, higher education could only be justified by direct, immediate and foreseeable usefulness. You became an engineer to build things, and scientist to do research, a teacher to teach and an arts student because, well—good luck explaining that one.

However, the benefits of a well-rounded education should not be disregarded, even if they're not immediately evident. Experience in math can help a writer understand logic and causation; reading history can help a doctor to understand the politics frustrating his or her profession; and there's no question what being able to communicate (both in pen and in person) can do for most engineers.

In order not to fall prey to the trapings of smart-stupid we need to re-incorporate some of academia's older values. While our education may lead us to specialized careers, it's important that we keep our eyes and minds open to the rest of the world.

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Fringing with the pros

University of Alberta students and graduates team up at this year's Fringe Festival to showcase their talents, have some fun and, perhaps, make a few waves in the Edmonton theatre scene

Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival
17-25 August
Shows and times vary
Old Spathecona

AMANDA ASH
Arts and Entertainment Editor

What lottery could possibly be bigger than the 649 or Super 7?

According to a handful of University of Alberta students, winning the chance to perform in Edmonton's yearly International Fringe Festival is better than receiving a giant bristol-board cheque any day. The Fringe randomly draws from innumerable entries every year, and for U of A alumni Nick Green and Erin Voaklander, luck has given them the opportunity to exhibit their talents.

"I think the Fringe has a competitive edge to it; it's supportive, but at the same time, competitive. People want you to come to their shows and they want to get five stars, but I want to try and not think like that."

NICK GREEN

Nick Green is a recent BFA (Acting) graduate, as well as the playwright and leading actor of *Gayface*, one of this year's Fringe plays. Inspired by the work he saw at last year's Nextfest—a festival that showcases up-and-coming playwrights' work—and his own experiences as a gay man, Green pulled an all-nighter to write a play that explores gay relationships.

Gayface confronts the challenges of coming out and being gay, but from Green's perspective, it also highlights the struggles of love, a universal topic that will reach out to both university crowds and regular theatre goers alike.

"I think it's accessible to older audiences because it's on the theme of love, and if you've been in a long-term relationship, you can relate

to the play," Green says. "I expect, with a name like *Gayface*, I'm probably going to end up with younger crowds, and that's great, because they have great energy, but I am hopeful that I can get a diverse crowd."

Although he hopes to attract as many spectators as possible to his production, Green knows it's going to be difficult. The Fringe is well-known for being one of the most talent-laden international festivals, but despite the competitive air that will hover amongst theatre companies over the next couple of weeks, Green's going to try not to think about it and, instead, maintain confidence in his play.

"[Being in the Fringe] is really intimidating," Green explains. "I think, no matter what, because this is a play I've written and I've put so much of myself into, I know for a fact that we're offering something that's different. I think the Fringe has a competitive edge to it; it's supportive, but at the same time, competitive. People want you to come to their shows and they want to get five stars, but I want to try and not think like that."

Like Green, Erin Voaklander—assistant director of another University-student based play entitled *Counting The Ways*—senses the same pressure to come out on top of all of the others. Voaklander says she also chose her play (a classic written by Edward Albee) because love is its subject matter, and, coincidentally, because everyone involved in the production is in love with it. However, even though she's confident that everyone will enjoy the show, the troupe still needs to find a way to sell it.

"We haven't decided whether or not to play up the student aspect of it, because people think that, on one hand, that students have studied this and it's going to be impressive," Voaklander says. "On the other hand, they might be like, 'Oh, these are students, oh they don't know what they're doing yet, oh they just graduated.' That kind of thing."

According to Voaklander, talent doesn't exist solely in the form of a BFA degree. None of her cast or crew have one, but rather hold majors, minors or hobbies in the theatre field, and from her perspective, the passion that stems from university students out to have a good time is what will make the Fringe—and every university-based play there—a viable competitor.

"We're doing [the play] for our creative passion," Voaklander says. "All of us love [the Fringe]."



Project music, mayhem

Mark Birtles Project can't wait to quit their gross jobs, play a couple of crazy local shows and head out onto the wide open road—just as long as their tour stays within the Alberta border

Mark Birtles Project

With Geronimo, Let's Dance
Thursday, 10 August at 8pm
Sidetrack Café

Thursday, 17 August at 8pm
With Kiss Kiss Bang Bang, Karadelle
The Studio

ANDREW RENFREE
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Dreams and goals tend to infest small touring vans like the plague, seeping into the hearts of musicians looking to make it big, but, for Bryan Birtles of the Mark Birtles Project, the one thing he's most anticipating about their upcoming tour is being able to quit his crappy summer job, where he slaves away selling booze at a local liquor store.

"I think part of the fun of being in a band is figuring out new and really interesting ways to quit your job," he says, adding that a summer amongst bottles and buzzers hasn't really been much fun. "People come in and they'll buy four mack-bombs at like ten o'clock in the morning, and by noon, they'll be back to buy four more. It just sort of gets to you after a while."

Birtles, guitarist for the Edmonton-based indie-rock group, has made it his mission to escape the confines of day-to-day employment and have one hell of a time doing it. Along with Blake Betteridge (keys), Rosaleen MacGurru (bass), Sean Taylor (drums) and Mark Raymond (lead vocals), Birtles will embark on a tour of western Canada starting with two shows in front of their local fans, and the remainder will be spent travelling across seven western Canadian cities from Winnipeg to Vancouver.

Birtles says that he and his bandmates are glad that their upcoming tour will remain in western Canada after experiencing disastrous trip to Toronto where they ended up stranded without clothes, money or food. A sequence of cancelled shows, car troubles and all-round bad luck forced the band to give TO the finger and hightail it back to Edmonton.

"Our van broke down on the way to Toronto and we limped into town. Then we got the van towed to a garage and then the garage burned down and our van got stuck behind for the fire investigation. Finally, when we got our van back,

we just said 'Fuck it' and drove back 47 hours straight to Edmonton," Birtles recalls. "After that last trip we made a rule that we would stay within a one-day's Greyhound trip from home, just in case anything bad happens."

Although the guys might be sticking close to home for their August tour, their off-stage antics have gotten the Edmonton quintet into some troubles in Alberta as well, to which the Drayton Valley RCMP can attest.

"We were just about to go on [stage] and the cops came in and shut the show down. Someone from our band, I won't say who, had been drinking heavily and he got belligerent with the cops," Birtles says. "He got himself arrested and he spent the whole night in the Drayton Valley jail. He had to be bailed out in the morning."

"Our van broke down on the way to Toronto and we limped into town. Then we got the van towed to a garage and then the garage burned down and our van got stuck behind for the fire investigation. Finally, when we got our van back, we just said 'Fuck it' and drove back 47 hours straight to Edmonton."

BRIAN BIRTLES

Mark Birtles Project is quite well-known for carrying their off-stage energy into their shows—so much, in fact, that many venue sound techs have insisted that they bring their own microphones, mainly because they have a history of destroying equipment when they're in the middle of a raucous chorus. Thus, Birtles suggests that bringing your grandma to a show is probably not the best idea.

"You could bring your little brother or your little sister to our show, but no, I wouldn't bring your grandma," Birtles says. "If I wouldn't my nana see it, you probably shouldn't let your grandma see it."

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Dreamfall

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MIKE KENDRICK
Design and Production Editor

The adventure genre is an endangered species in the gaming world. For years, players have been delighted with the imaginative plots and landscapes of titles such as *King's Quest* and *The Secret of Monkey Island*—games that focus on immersing players in a new world, letting them solve problems with their brains rather than their trigger fingers. While these titles have become a rare breed, the genre isn't extinct just yet, thanks to the efforts of developers like those at Funcom, makers of the recently-released *Dreamfall*, sequel to 1999's *The Longest Journey*.

Dreamfall is set in Casablanca in the year 2219. The world isn't radically different from its state at the turn of our millennium, though it has gone through incredible turmoil over the past ten years. A catastrophic event known only as "The Collapse" occurs, disrupting networks and technology on a global scale, and sending ripples through the *Wired* (the presumed evolution of our own Internet). Science is suddenly brought to a halt, and the inhabitants of Earth find themselves in a humbling state of affairs mirroring that of their elders.

Minor gripes aside, *Dreamfall* offers a huge contribution to a gaming market saturated with *Diablo* clones and *Half-Life* wannabes. Adventure is far from dead, and while *Dreamfall* snuck in under the radar, this sleeper hit pumps some life back into a thirsty genre that's in need of revival.

At this point, we're introduced to Zoë Castillo, a young, self-motivated dreamer, living with her father in Casablanca. She finds her life in a rut of apathy and depression that she can't pull out of despite efforts from those around her. The most painful part of her torment is her ex-boyfriend, with whom she's recently ended a serious

relationship but still loves dearly. However, when he asks her to retrieve a package for him from a research associate, Zoë comes out of her slump and her story begins.

The entire game plays like an interactive movie. *Dreamfall* carves a respectable balance between gameplay and cinematic: it never stops the action to play a lengthy video. In fact, all the action is experienced in-game, with no FMV (full motion video) sequences that are there just to look pretty or slow down the pace of a game. Each new environment is presented both through exploration and cinematic camera work, immersing you into the worlds of the game. Lush waterfalls pour from towering mountains, while streamlined transports zip through the skies of neon-clad Casablanca. But, the settings never feel campy or over-the-top.

Characters make logical observations and comment on their current surroundings, and conversations are played out as they would in any film, allowing the player to choose the path of emotional response appropriate for the situation, eliciting differing reactions from characters in the game. Some will respond warmly to your kindness or react submissively to your threats, while you will find yourself having to find another way around if you become too aggressive with a defensive character.

In addition to its stunning visuals, *Dreamfall* truly stands out in its soundtrack. The award-nominated orchestral score is the cherry on top of a very delicious cake of whimsical adventure that feels as as though it's straight out of a Spielberg film. Composer Leon Willett has done for *Dreamfall* what John Williams and Danny Elfman have given to Hollywood. Together with a plethora of sound effects spanning from the fantasy world of *Arcadia* to the future of our own, it's the little details that tie the game together into a living, breathing environment.

If there's a complaint to be made, though, it's that the controls need some serious adjustment, and at times, they can be incredibly frustrating. While adventure games typically don't require any sort of acrobatic maneuvers, since all special actions are presented through the interface, the camera control in relation to character movement doesn't feel as intuitive as it could be. Sometimes, for instance, annoying blips occur in the on-screen movement, which becomes especially problematic during combat sequences. And with a game as beautiful as this, it would be nice to be able to look up into the sky and admire the towering skyscrapers spanning before you, but sadly, no Y-axis is offered.

Minor gripes aside, *Dreamfall* offers a huge contribution to a gaming market saturated with *Diablo* clones and *Half-Life* wannabes. Adventure is far from dead, and while *Dreamfall* snuck in under the radar, this sleeper hit pumps some life back into a thirsty genre that's in need of revival.



Shout Out Out Out Out

Not Saying/Just Saying
Nrmis Wcm Records
www.nrmiswcmrecords.com

MATT FREHNER
Editor-in-Chief

According to Canada's bastion of good taste and enlightened sensibilities, the *Globe and Mail*, Edmonton's burgeoning music scene is going to make it "The Next Seattle," and local giants Shout Out Out Out Out are pegged to lead the revolution.

Shout Out is a bit of a hipster mystery, though.



Donovan Frankenreiter

Move By Yourself
Lost Highway (Universal)
www.donovanrf.com

ADAM GAUMONT
Opinion Editor

Donovan Frankenreiter's career parallels Jack Johnson's almost exactly: starting out as a surfer, he moved to Hawaii to pursue his passion professionally, only to develop a late-blooming musical talent. This eerie resemblance is no coincidence,

Best experienced in a liquor-fueled stupor, deep in a pit of gyrating, sweaty pretentiousness, Shout Out's infectious dance magic has trouble confined within a tiny jewel case. Gatorade and Tylenol in hand, you'll wonder why you ever thought their latest album, *Not Saying/Just Saying* was worth picking up. Despondent, you'll console yourself: at least the album art is kind of nifty.

A couple of tracks into *Not Saying/Just Saying*, the novelty of vocoder-produced robot voices singing ballads of self-loathing wears thin. Hilarious and absurd but completely tiresome, the record fails to export the excitement of their live show. The only exception to this is the instrumental "Chicken Soup For The Fuck You," which, perhaps because it lacks lyrics, avoids the repetitive lean of the other eight tracks. By all accounts, though, Shout Out's album is completely, and unfortunately, mediocre.

To quote a seminal singer/songwriter of our time, "My body's saying let's go / but my heart is saying no," and if life has taught me anything, listening to your body over your heart only ends in awkward conversation and unwanted pregnancies. Just saying.

either. The two are long-time friends, and it was on Johnson's own Brushfire Records label that the deceptively Germanic-sounding Frankenreiter made himself a debut album (2004's self-titled release).

Of course, it would be easy to criticize Frankenreiter at this point for riding on his surf-buddy's coattails, but let *Move By Yourself*—released on the unaffiliated Lost Highway label—serve as final, indisputable proof that he has the goods to stand on his own.

Don't get me wrong, though: I'm not saying that Donovan Frankenreiter is as good as his musical mentor. In fact, he's far from it, in the sense that he's twice the musician that Jack Johnson will ever be—and I really dig Jack Johnson.

One listen to *Move By Yourself*'s ass-shaking, money-making grooves, such as "Let It Go," "That's Too Bad" or the monumental title track, and I'm sure that you'll agree. A few parts Jamiroquai, a few parts Ben Harper and no parts Jack Johnson, the funky, grungy, retro-hippy Donovan Frankenreiter is a superb musician sporting a style all of his own.



Blue October

Foiled
Universal Records
www.blueoctoberfan.com

MIKE KENDRICK
Design and Production Editor

It's hard to take an album seriously when everything about it, including the cover art, feels like a kitschy attempt at faux-emotional poetry. Blue October's disc, *Foiled*, pictures a crumpled ball of

aluminum foil, presumably crushed in an angst-ridden songwriting session over the guitarist's latest breakup with his high-school girlfriend.

There's not a whole lot of consistency between the songs on this album. Some sound like they're stuck in a 1999 time warp blender, resulting in a virtual potpourri of pop, rock and even a little hint of Latin that every Top 40 song from that year seemed to carry, while other songs make you think that the band is trying just a little too hard to be Dashboard Confessional. Save me the agony; I can vindicate without the glass-shattering sopranos.

While "Hate Me"—the one track on the album that you've been hearing on the radio every half hour this summer—has its moments, albeit lacking anything truly inspiring, the rest of *Foiled* feels like nothing more than filler for a band that's still trying to find its sound four albums later. Stick to downloading other iTunes music and crumple, toss or break this album before the next single comes out. Just don't cut your wrists on the plastic.

and John Dragonetti. And the result? Ten claustrophobically self-absorbed tracks bogged down by sappy, repetitive lyrics and pissed on by Cake-esque half-singing that does nothing to expand the album.

Since the catalyst for the album was love, it's no surprise to see it reflected in the lyrics. However, the real surprise lies in its clumsy handling: a lot of lines read like tacky gift cards ("I would wait one hundred summers / just once again to be with you"), or scribbles in a pre-teen diary ("I know that you are tired / of the same questions but maybe if I keep asking them / the sounds from your mouth will forms words / that I want to hear"). Thankfully the album is forgivingly short; the ten tracks finish in less than forty minutes.

It's understandable that all this means something to Hazard and Dragonetti, but as a commercial product, it's about as enjoyable as having a giant splinter core around your head. No breaths of fresh air here.



The Submarines

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MATTY BEE
Arts and Entertainment Writer

Declare A New State was composed and recorded in the wake of an on-again, off-again relationship crisis for The Submarines' Blake Hazard

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ANDREW RENFREW
Sports Staff

At the beginning of every CIS season there are always fresh faces on the bench. Most often these are new athletes looking to debut on the national stage amongst the best in Canada. The Pandas basketball team fits this description with several new faces on the bench this year but, for the first time in 15 years, one of those new faces will belong to the head coach.

Last January, veteran coach Trix Baker announced that he would be leaving the helm of the Pandas basketball team for a year-long educational leave this season. The reigns have been handed over to Scott Edwards, who coached the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) Concordia Thunder for the last six years. For Edwards, the opportunity to coach at a high level has him very upbeat for the coming season.

"There's also excitement about the group of athletes here," he said. "I think we have a great group of returning veterans and we've added some freshmen coming in this season that are going to make Pandas basketball a pretty exciting team to watch this year."

Edwards will fill the coaching void for the 2006/07 season, and while he may be new to CIS basketball, he comes with impressive credentials: he coached the Concordia Thunder to an ACAC title in 2005 and then went on to lead them to a national title the same year; in the last two seasons with the Thunder, he was selected as ACAC Coach of the Year; and last year he was chosen as the Canadian Coach of the Year. Edwards hopes to carry over his success at the collegiate level onto the CIS court.

"I think I'll just be myself this coming season and hopefully my style is good for the Pandas, and they want to get out and run and play some hard defence," noted Edwards.

Despite his burgeoning trophy case, Edwards will have large shoes to fill in Baker's absence.

Under her guidance, the Pandas basketball team won the national championship in 1999, and followed that up with a silver medal in 2001. However, Edwards feels that taking over from such a good coach has left the women's basketball program at the U of A in good hands.

"I would say it's been a really easy transition," he said of the coaching change. "Coach Baker and I are good friends off the court, away from basketball, so it made it really easy for me to step in, and she certainly made my job much easier with her patience and understanding."

"I've made no bones about the fact that I want to be a CIS women's basketball coach, so I do see this as an audition for the U of A—when Coach Baker decides to retire—or for another university in the future."

SCOTT EDWARDS
INTERIM HEAD COACH
PANDAS BASKETBALL

Still, getting adjusted to the new personnel will be a challenge the Pandas will have to overcome this year. They have recruited three players who are expected to contribute right away, after bringing in a slew of young players the past two seasons.

"We have a lot of new faces coming in, so the biggest challenge right away will be to get us to gel and play hard for each other," said Edwards, adding that having a new coach is also a challenge for the team. "My personal challenge is to get to know each of the new kids and get ready to coach at the CIS level."

In the last couple of years the Pandas have had



FILE PHOTO: MIKE OTTO

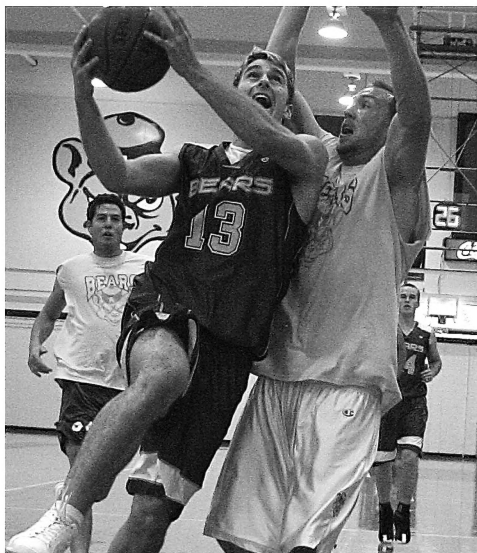
IT'S JUST A JUMP TO THE LEFT Scott Edwards will now be in charge of taking the Pandas to the top.

some difficulty on the court, posting sub-500 records of 9–11 in each of the past two seasons. For Edwards, the goal this year is for his team to make the playoffs and win a first-round series, but he also has set himself a personal goal.

"I've made no bones about the fact that I want

to be a CIS women's basketball coach so I do see this as an audition for the U of A—when Coach Baker decides to retire—or for another university in the future. For right now, I'm just going to enjoy the season and do the best we can with the Pandas," he said.

Automatic finals bid gives Carleton an unfair and unnecessary advantage



FILE PHOTO: BEN BEGLEY

TAKING THE EASY ROAD Recruiting will be easier for Carleton than this lay-up was for Alex Steacy.

CHRIS
OLEARY

Sports
Commentary

There's a foul smell coming out of Ontario and for once, it's not Sarnia, or Hamilton, or Renfrew. The smell, if you can't quite figure it out, is the wind being let out of the sails—or maybe more appropriately, the air out of the Spaldings—of the legitimacy of CIS basketball. You'll have plenty of time to get used to this pungent odour, as things won't really start to stink until the 2007/08 season, when Ottawa's Carleton Ravens begin their three-year stint as hosts to the men's national basketball championship tournament.

The Ravens, winners of the last four consecutive national titles, will bring the 24-year stay the tournament has had in Halifax to an end next season, and will be in a position to win the national championship for at least another three years, thanks to some shrewd negotiating on their part.

Included in the Ravens' winning bid to host the tournament from 2008–2010 is an automatic berth each year in the tourney, that'll be played out at Scotiabank Place, which houses the NHL's Senators. A team-specific berth in the tournament is something that's unheard of in men's CIS basketball; the Atlantic University Sport conference was given an extra berth in the tournament in each of the 23 years that Halifax has hosted, but that left the spot open to one of eight potential teams every season. A similar system should have been put in place here, giving the Ontario University Athletics conference an extra bid, instead of just the Ravens.

An automatic berth for a powerhouse team like the Ravens might not seem like a big deal to some, but it threatens to destroy any parity that exists between the Ravens and every other team in the nation. If you thought Carleton—a team that's lost two regular season games in the last four years—was tough, wait until they have three summers of this significant recruiting advantage under their belts. 40-point victories could quickly become the norm for the Ravens, as every top Canadian high-school kid that doesn't go to the NCAA will want to suit up for coach Dave Smart.

The host team gaining an automatic berth may be new to men's basketball, but it's nothing new to CIS. In the last year, the Pandas soccer and Bears hockey teams gained automatic berths in the national championships they hosted; however, these tournaments regularly change venues, which helps to prevent teams from monopolizing one of a league's talent (though hosting hockey for two years in a row certainly didn't hurt the Bears' recruiting).

That said, this isn't a slight against Carleton. They were smart enough to push for the automatic berth, and the folks at CIS were foolish enough to give it to them. Maybe CIS CEO Marg McGregor's eyes lit up when she saw the cash that Carleton, with the assistance of Senators' owners Capital Sports Properties, Inc. offered up as part of their bid—a combined \$825 000 over three years, according to the *Globe and Mail*. For that kind of money, she probably would have given the Ravens her right arm if they had asked for it.

At any rate, all the stakeholders are happy: CIS got its money, the Ravens got to pull the tournament out of Halifax and subsequently secured a spot in the tournament for each of the years they'll host. It's too bad their league's integrity will have to come at the cost of the satisfaction they

From basketball to soccer, Gateway writers go giddy over varsity sports



GATEWAY STAFF

Sports
Commentary

the other hand, the team could flop worse than this season's Eskimos. Thus, I'll await the coming volleyball season with bated breath, wondering if the Bears still have their growl, or are nothing more than a bunch of cubs.

Chris O'Leary

For most sports, six new recruits on your roster isn't a big deal. It's a blip on the radar for a football or hockey team, and nothing out of the ordinary for soccer. But for the Bears basketball team, six young kids from BC will comprise half of head coach Don Horwood's roster in the fall, and—along with some "vets" that still have a lot of green on them—will come together like Voltron to form the biggest question mark in the team's recent memory.

The onus will fall on the shoulders of senior players Scott Gordon, Richard Bates and Tyson Jones to carry this team past last year's 500 record and back into the elite of Canada West. Alex Steele, Harvey Bradford and Andrew Parker could be on the verge of breakout seasons, and as Horwood enters into his 24th year behind the Bears' bench, you have to think he's got a trick up his sleeve that will work for his guys.

Finally, will this be the year that Bears' mascot GUBA starts doing dunks off of a trampoline during timeouts? Will the cheerleaders or dance team make their way back onto the court to have hundreds of people silently stare awkwardly at them once again, bringing their year-long hiatus to an end? These are just some of the questions that can only be answered come November in the Main Gym.

Paul Owen

It's an old saying in sports that if you can't stand the celebration, you shouldn't bother doing anything great. I take this to mean that if you get down like you're Prince circa 1987 after finishing a mere fifth at nationals, you definitely have it in you to win a title, or at least celebrate like you did.



FILE PHOTO: PETE IRE

GET DOWN TONIGHT If they play half as well as they celebrate, the Pandas will be a blast to watch.

That's why I'm most looking forward to the Pandas soccer season. Yes, they have a new head coach and an exciting young roster of offensive-minded players, but they also have a roster that surprised everyone by finishing fifth in the country and then celebrated by dancing on the jumbotron at that night's basketball game and heckling Don Horwood to put in Richard Bates. If they do all that for fifth, I'd love to see what they'd do if you added a big trophy and a banner to the equation. I'd even bet that they surpass the week-long annexation of RATT executed by the Pandas hockey team this past March. Maybe it's the World Cup hangover talking, but I'm definitely going to be freezing my ass off at Foote Field to see what this team can do.

Ross Prusakowski

Ever since childhood, I've managed to infuriate my parents, friends, girlfriends and just about everyone else on a continual basis because of my inability to make decisions when presented with

more than one option.

With the departure of a host of top-quality athletes from nearly every Bears and Pandas team over the summer, I think I'll have a tough time deciding which storylines are the most compelling for me to pursue.

From wanting to see if the Bears hockey team can be the first team in 26 years to win back-to-back-to-back titles, to wondering if their volleyball compatriots can still dominate the rest of the conference despite the loss of key players, there are just so many things that could happen this season.

Throw in that the swim teams are getting a new head coach—and a new philosophy—and that the Bears football squad needs to break in a new quarterback and finally get beyond the Canada West final after three years of being the bridesmaid, and I get the feeling that I'll be missing a lot of athletics action. Not because I won't be in the stands, but because I'll be standing in front of the ticket window unable to decide what event to see.

Andrew Renfroe

One of the things I'm anticipating most this year—other than getting my damn degree after the bulk of a decade—is the start of the men's volleyball season in the fall. The Bears volleyball squad was arguably the best in the country for the last two seasons—saw the gold-medal game in 2006. But after an all-star roster of volleyball players left in the off-season due to graduation and Canadian national team spots, Bears' head coach Terry Danyluk was left with a sizeable void to fill for the 2006/07 CIS season.


For the first time in several years, the Bears volleyball team won't be an automatic shoe-in for the national finals, and that's what really excites me about the upcoming season. Granted, Danyluk has recruited some top athletes from other volleyball leagues and teams, but the fact remains that the fresh faces in the lineup are unproven, so the season could be a real crashout. On the one hand, some great new talent could step up, fill the void and exceed everyone's expectations; on

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